

Executive Summary: One Water Conference

Key elements and concepts of the conference. . . .

- Promoted the “One Water” concept. (the 360 degree water cycle)
- Noted that “climate change” is impacting the water cycle
- Promotes the concept of water equity and that access to clean water is a right and everyone is a stakeholder.
- Highlights and celebrates multiple programs/projects that are successfully protecting and maintaining clean water resources. Organization is open to anyone and all parties have a stake in clean fresh water – not an organization of just water and wastewater utility staff.
- Dedicated to implementation of practices producing a sustainable water supply that is both safe and “affordable” to all
- Illustrates and documents the issues and challenges to protecting water, as well as access to affordable clean water to all.
- Focus on broadening the overall “AWARENESS” of the “One Water “ concept
- Enable initiatives that ensure access to affordable clean water to minorities and the economically disadvantaged. . . .
 - conveyed the element of racial inequality and injustice of past practices
- Communicated the common theme of our failing infrastructure around the country and the impact on clean water.
- There is a huge amount of new funding and there are challenges to qualify and obtain these dollars. There are estimates of 5X more funds being dispersed over the next 5-year period with many unanswered questions from who will qualify to how requests will be judged/scored. Those seeking infrastructure and grant funding will be a far more diverse group than simply Water and Wastewater Utilities.

Results and Action Items (from attending the conference)

- Expanded HOVMSD’s network of water professionals in NE Wisconsin.
- Identified as part of the Green Bay/Lower Fox River regional delegation
- Connect and leverage existing initiatives (do not re-invent of duplicate efforts) to build a “bigger/better” story to support One Water “AWARENESS”
- Offered to lead/coordinate the delegation and drive the “AWARENESS” phase of the “One Water” vision